

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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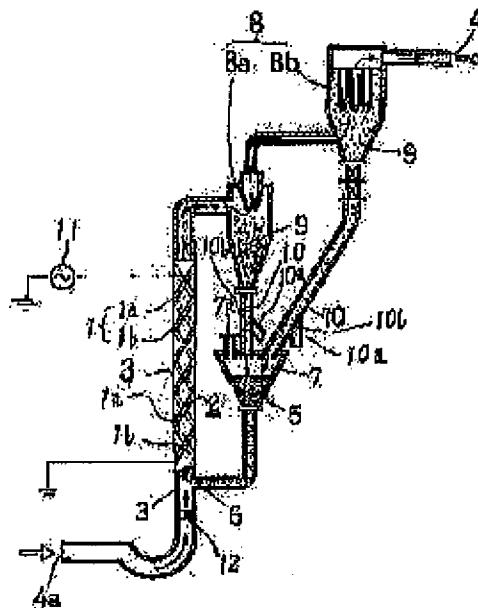
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**(54) ATMOSPHERIC PLASMA POWDER TREATING METHOD AND DEVICE THEREFOR**



(57) Abstract:

4b PURPOSE: To provide the atmospheric plasma powder treating method and device therefor capable of reforming the surface of a granular body by plasma treatment and uniformly reforming the whole granular body.

CONSTITUTION: An insulator tube 3 is provided with a plasma reaction zone 2 formed by furnishing an electrode couple 1 consisting of a high-frequency electrode 1a connected to an AC power source 11 and a grounded electrode 1b on the outer periphery. A rare gas or a gaseous mixture of the rare gas and a reactive gas is introduced from a gas inlet 4a at one end of the tube 3 and discharged from a gas outlet 4b connected to the other end of the tube 3 to produce glow-discharge plasma in the zone 2 under atmospheric pressure, and the granular body supplied to the zone 2 is treated. In this case, a

granular body as a material 5 to be treated is continuously supplied into the plasma in the zone 2, where the rare gas or the mixture of the rare gas and a reactive gas flows from a feed port 6 provided between the zone 2 and inlet 4a.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]  
[0001]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] About an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method and its device, in detail, this invention is the glow discharge plasma generated inside the insulator pipe under atmospheric pressure, and relates to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method which carries out reforming treatment of the surface of the particulate matter inside an insulator pipe, and its device.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In order to reform conventionally the surface of the granular material used for paints or a catalyst of the filler of composite, and a paint, etc. or to make a necessary substance adhere, the plasma granular material disposal method using a plasma granular material processing unit is performed. However, as shown in drawing 7, the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas is introduced from the gas stream entrance 40a of the end part of the insulator pipe 30 provided with the plasma reaction zone 20 which formed the electrode pair 100 and was formed, In the case of the plasma granular material disposal method using the plasma granular material processing unit which makes the granular material 50 with which it was filled up in the insulator pipe 30 via the filter 120 float, It changed into the state where it deposited without the granular material's 50 floating locally and some granular materials 50 which are around a wall floating, and what is called a blow-by phenomenon occurred, and about this deposited granular material 50, since refining of the surface of the granular material 50 was not performed, there was a fault that refining became uneven as the granular material 50 whole.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The place which this invention was made in view of the above-mentioned fact, and is made into the purpose reforms the surface of a particulate matter by plasma treatment, and there is refining in providing a uniform atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method and its device as the whole particulate matter.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 1 of this invention, Mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas is introduced from the gas stream entrance 4a of an end part of the insulator pipe 3 provided with the plasma reaction zone 2 which formed the electrode pair 1 which comprises RF electrode 1a connected with AC power supply 11, and the earth electrode 1b in a peripheral part, and was formed in it, The above-mentioned gas is discharged from the gas exhaust 4b which stands in a row in the other end of the insulator pipe 3, In an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method which processes a particulate matter which made the plasma reaction zone 2 generate glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure, and was supplied to the plasma reaction zone 2, From the processed material supply port 6 where it had between the plasma reaction zone 2 of the above-mentioned insulator pipe 3, and the gas stream entrance 4a, a particulate matter which is the processed material 5 is continuously supplied into plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows.

[0005] An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 2 of this invention, Use as the processed material 5 intermediate treatment material 9 which is the particulate matter continuously processed in plasma of the above-mentioned plasma reaction zone 2, and it is returned to the above-mentioned processed material supply port 6, From this processed material supply port 6, a

particulate matter which is the processed material 5 is continuously supplied into plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows, and the number-of-times recycling of necessary is carried out. [0006]An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 3 of this invention takes out continuously a particulate matter continuously processed in plasma of the above-mentioned plasma reaction zone 2.

[0007]An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 4 of this invention, Mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas is introduced from the gas stream entrance 4a of an end part of the insulator pipe 3 provided with the plasma reaction zone 2 which formed the electrode pair 1 which comprises RF electrode 1a connected with AC power supply 11, and the earth electrode 1b in a peripheral part, and was formed in it, The above-mentioned gas is discharged from the gas exhaust 4b which stands in a row in the other end of the insulator pipe 3, In an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit which processes a particulate matter which made the plasma reaction zone 2 generate glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure, and was supplied to the plasma reaction zone 2, It had the processed material supply port 6 which supplies a particulate matter which is the processed material 5 between the plasma reaction zone 2 of the above-mentioned insulator pipe 3, and the gas stream entrance 4a, and had the processed material storing zone 7 which stands in a row in this processed material supply port 6.

[0008]An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 5 of this invention is characterized by a cross-section area of the above-mentioned processed material supply port 6 being smaller than a cross-section area of the insulator pipe 3 cut to the processed material supply port 6 in a vertical virtual surface in a position in which this processed material supply port 6 was allocated.

[0009]An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 6 of this invention, It had the collector 8 between an end of the insulator pipe 3 and the above-mentioned gas exhaust 4b in an opposite hand of the above-mentioned gas stream entrance 4a, and had the recycling pipe 10 which returns a particulate matter which is the intermediate treatment material 9 caught by this collector 8, and by which plasma treatment was carried out to the processed material storing zone 7.

[0010]An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 7 of this invention is characterized by the above-mentioned collectors 8 being the cyclone 8a and/or the bag filter 8b.

[0011]

[Function]In the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 1 of this invention. As shown in drawing 1, from the processed material supply port 6 where it had between the plasma reaction zone 2 of the insulator pipe 3, and the gas stream entrance 4a, By supplying continuously the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 into the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows, While it distributes uniformly with the above-mentioned gas and the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 goes up the inside of the glow discharge plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 under atmospheric pressure, it passes through the plasma reaction zone 2, and plasma treatment is performed continuously.

[0012]In the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 2 of this invention. Use as the processed material 5 intermediate treatment material 9 which is the particulate matter continuously processed in the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2, and it is returned to the above-mentioned

processed material supply port 6, In order to supply continuously the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 into the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows and to carry out the number-of-times recycling of necessary from this processed material supply port 6, Since the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 repeats the plasma reaction zone 2 which generates glow discharge plasma and circulates and passes, the long holding time in plasma space can be taken.

[0013]In the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 3 of this invention. Without suspending an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit, since the particulate matter continuously processed in the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 can be taken out continuously, the particulate matter by which plasma treatment was carried out by carrying out the number-of-times recycling of necessary can be taken out continuously, and it is efficient.

[0014]In the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 4 of this invention. Since it had the processed material supply port 6 which supplies the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 between the plasma reaction zone 2 of the insulator pipe 3, and the gas stream entrance 4a and has the processed material storing zone 7 which stands in a row in this processed material supply port 6, By introducing the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas from the gas stream entrance 4a, While it distributes uniformly with the above-mentioned gas and the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 goes up the inside of the glow discharge plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 under atmospheric pressure, it passes through the plasma reaction zone 2, and plasma treatment is performed continuously.

[0015]In the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 5 of this invention. Since the cross-section area of the processed material supply port 6 is smaller than the cross-section area of the insulator pipe 3 cut to the processed material supply port 6 in the vertical virtual surface in the position in which this processed material supply port 6 was allocated, The mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas does not carry out a diversion of river to the processed material storing zone 7, but it flows into the plasma reaction zone 2, and, as a result, supply of the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 is performed continuously.

[0016]In the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 6 and claim 7 of this invention. It has the collectors 8, such as the cyclone 8a and/or the bag filter 8b, between the end of the insulator pipe 3 and the above-mentioned gas exhaust 4b in the opposite hand of the gas stream entrance 4a, Since it has the recycling pipe 10 which returns the intermediate treatment material 9 caught by this collector 8 to the processed material storing zone 7, Since the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 repeats the plasma reaction zone 2 which generates glow discharge plasma and circulates and passes, the long holding time in plasma space can be taken.

[0017]

[Example]This invention is explained based on the drawing concerning an example below.

[0018]Drawing 1 is a schematic diagram of one example of the device used for the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning this invention.

[0019]The device used for the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal

method concerning this invention. As shown in drawing 1, the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas is introduced from the gas stream entrance 4a of the end part of the insulator pipe 3 which has electric insulation. Discharge the above-mentioned gas from the gas exhaust 4b which stands in a row in the other end of the insulator pipe 3, the plasma reaction zone 2 is made to generate glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure, and the particulate matter supplied to the plasma reaction zone 2 is processed. This insulator pipe 3 is not limited that what is necessary is [ especially ] just an insulator, for example, although glass, a plastic, ceramics, etc. are used. This insulator pipe 3 is provided with the plasma reaction zone 2 which comprised RF electrode 1a and the earth electrode 1b which are connected with AC power supply 11 at a peripheral part, for example, formed the parallel electrode pair 1 and was formed. This plasma reaction zone 2 is provided with the electrode pair 1 constituted with band-like RF electrode 1a which set the interval and was wound around spiral shape, and which is connected with AC power supply 11, and the band-like earth electrode 1b in accordance with the periphery of the insulator pipe 3, as shown in drawing 2. This electrode pair 1 is not limited that what is necessary is [ especially ] just a conductor, for example, although metallic foils, such as copper with a binder or aluminum, are used. It is preferred to carry out the ceiling of the circumference of the electrode pair 1 by resin, such as silicone. That is, by carrying out a ceiling by the above-mentioned resin, a dielectric breakdown is prevented and plasma comes to occur only inside the insulator pipe 3 of the predetermined plasma reaction zone 2. Drawing 3 is other plasma reaction zones 2 used for the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning this invention.

Drawing 3 (a) is a top view and drawing 3 (b) is an elevational view. As shown in drawing 3, in accordance with the periphery of the insulator pipe 3, \*\*\*\*\* is a rectangle and this plasma reaction zone 2 is provided with the electrode pair 1 constituted with RF electrode 1a connected with curved plate [ in which plane view has thickness / which is circular, sets an interval and counters ]-like AC power supply 11, and the earth electrode 1b. The electric insulating plate 3a which has tabular electric insulation counters the approximately center of the interval of this RF electrode 1a of the electrode pair 1 and earth electrode 1b, and it protrudes and prepares for the periphery of the insulator pipe 3. A dielectric breakdown is prevented by this electric insulating plate 3a, and plasma comes to occur inside the insulator pipe 3 of the predetermined plasma reaction zone 2. The above-mentioned electric insulating plate 3a is not limited that what is necessary is [ especially ] just an insulator, for example, although glass, a plastic, ceramics, etc. are used. Instead of using this electric insulating plate 3a, the same effect as the electric insulating plate 3a is acquired by carrying out the ceiling of the circumference of the electrode pair 1 by resin, such as silicone. The plasma reaction zones 2 shown in drawing 4 are other plasma reaction zones 2 used for the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning this invention.

Drawing 4 (a) is a top view and drawing 4 (b) is an elevational view. As shown in drawing 4, this plasma reaction zone 2, In the plane view rolled in the shape of a band, in accordance with the periphery of the insulator pipe 3, \*\*\*\*\* by ring shape The rectangular earth electrode 1b, It has the electrode pair 1 which comprises RF electrode 1a connected with AC power supply 11, and the earth electrode 1b and RF electrode 1a connected with AC power supply 11 set an interval, and is allocated by turns. The electric insulating plate 3a of the insulator pipe 3 and a concentric circle disc-like in plane view protrudes on the periphery of the insulator pipe 3, and the approximately center of each interval of this RF electrode 1a of the

electrode pair 1 and earth electrode 1b is equipped with it. Thus, any of the plasma reaction zone 2 which showed by drawing 2 thru/or drawing 4 may be used as the plasma reaction zone 2 used for the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning this invention.

[0020] Above-mentioned AC power supply 11 is not limited in particular, although it can be used from a tens of Hz low frequency wave to 13.56-MHz high frequency. As gas introduced from the gas stream entrance 4a of the end part of the above-mentioned insulator pipe 3, when rare gas or nitrogen, such as helium or argon, does not contribute to a reaction, the reactant low inactive gas of nitrogen etc. can be used if needed. As reactive gas, for example Inorganic system gas, such as oxygen, nitrogen, ammonia, or carbon dioxide, The organic monomer gas containing fluoride, such as  $C_2F_4$ ,  $C_3F_6$ , or  $CF_4$ , The steam etc. of organic monomers, such as the organic monomer gas containing silicon, such as a tetraethoxysilane (TEOS) or hexamethyl disiloxane, or ketone, alcohol, ether, dimethylformamide (DMF), aldehyde, amines, or carboxylic acid, can be used. Here, when an organic monomer is liquefied, since it is also atmospheric pressure to carry out bubbling of the rare gas etc. into the fluid of this organic monomer, to make an organic monomer evaporate, and to introduce from the gas stream entrance 4a of the end part of the insulator pipe 3, it is very easy. Introduce the mixed gas of these rare gases and reactive gas, discharge the above-mentioned gas from the gas exhaust 4b which stands in a row in the other end of the insulator pipe 3, the plasma reaction zone 2 is made to generate glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure, and the particulate matter supplied to the plasma reaction zone 2 is processed. The particulate matter which is this processed material 5 can use resin, glass, ceramics, metal, or wood, for example, particle diameter or shape in particular is not limited, and conditions, such as shape of the insulator pipe 3 or a gas flow rate, are suitably set up according to that characteristic.

[0021] It has the processed material supply port 6 which supplies the processed material 5 between the plasma reaction zone 2 of the above-mentioned insulator pipe 3, and the gas stream entrance 4a, and it stands in a row in this processed material supply port 6, and has the processed material storing zone 7. By supplying the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 from the particulate matter entrance slot 7a with which this processed material storing zone 7 is equipped, From the processed material supply port 6, the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 is continuously supplied into the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows. It distributes uniformly with gas, this particulate matter passes through the inside of the glow discharge plasma generated in the plasma reaction zone 2 under atmospheric pressure, and plasma treatment is performed continuously.

[0022] It is desirable for the cross-section area of the above-mentioned processed material supply port 6 to be smaller than the cross-section area of the insulator pipe 3 cut to the processed material supply port 6 in the vertical virtual surface in the position in which this processed material supply port 6 was allocated, and it is good 10 to 50% of more preferably. Namely, when the cross-section area of the processed material supply port 6 exceeds 50% of the cross-section areas of the insulator pipe 3 cut to the processed material supply port 6 in the vertical virtual surface in the position in which this processed material supply port 6 was allocated. It becomes easy to shunt the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas toward the processed material storing zone 7 from the gas stream entrance 4a, and in being less than 10%, the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 is easily got blocked near the processed material supply port 6, and the tendency for supply to the inside of the

insulator pipe 3 to become difficult comes out. The inside of the insulator pipe 3 may not be made to pass a particulate matter in the lower part of the processed material supply port 6, only gas may be passed, for example, porous plate 12 grades, such as a glass sintering filter, may be installed.

[0023]It is desirable to have the collectors 8, such as the cyclone 8a and/or the bag filter 8b, between the end of the insulator pipe 3 and the above-mentioned gas exhaust 4b in the opposite hand of the above-mentioned gas stream entrance 4a. That is, gas and a particulate matter are separated by the collectors 8, such as this cyclone 8a and/or the bag filter 8b, and gas is discharged from the gas exhaust 4b. On the other hand, the caught particulate matter [ finishing / plasma treatment ] may be continuously taken out in the lower part of the collector 8.

[0024]It can return to the processed material storing zone 7 with the recycling pipes 10, such as recycling piping which stands in a row in the lower part of the collector 8 by using as the intermediate treatment material 9 the particulate matter [ finishing / plasma treatment ] caught by this collector 8. For this reason, the above-mentioned intermediate treatment material 9 is returned to the above-mentioned processed material supply port 6 as the processed material 5, and is continuously supplied from this processed material supply port 6 into the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows. That is, it becomes possible to carry out the number-of-times recycling of necessary, and since a particulate matter repeats the inside of the glow discharge plasma generated in the plasma reaction zone 2 and circulates and passes, it can take the long holding time in plasma space. That is, since the plasma reaction zone 2 can be shortened while it is effective in plasma treatment, when a long time is a required particulate matter as a result, an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit can be made compact.

[0025]The particulate matter continuously processed in the plasma of the above-mentioned plasma reaction zone 2 can be continuously taken out from the treated material outlet 10a with which the recycling pipe 10 was equipped. Namely, by intercepting the course to the processed material storing zone 7 by the valve 10b prepared for the case where a particulate matter is taken out at the treated material outlet 10a, and opening the course of the treated material outlet 10a, The particulate matter continuously processed in plasma can be continuously taken out from the treated material outlet 10a, without suspending an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit.

[0026]According to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method of this invention, and its device, by the above. By supplying continuously the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 into the plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 through which the mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows, While it distributes uniformly with the above-mentioned gas and the particulate matter which is the processed material 5 goes up the inside of the glow discharge plasma of the plasma reaction zone 2 under atmospheric pressure, it passes through the plasma reaction zone 2, and plasma treatment is performed continuously. That is, a reaction or film formation in the surface of activation of the surface of a particulate matter or a particulate matter, etc. is performed by plasma treatment, refining of the surface of a particulate matter is carried out, and refining becomes uniform as the whole particulate matter.

[0027]An example which uses the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit of this invention for below, and reforms the surface of a particulate matter by plasma treatment is given.

[0028](Example 1 of use) The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning this invention performed plasma treatment of silica powder. Silica powder (TOKUSHIRU UR; made by Tokuyama Soda Co., Ltd.) with a mean particle diameter of 100 micrometers which is the processed material 5 was thrown in from the particulate matter entrance slot 7a with which the processed material storing zone 7 shown in drawing 1 is equipped. Next, from the gas stream entrance 4a, as rare gas, helium was carried out by 3-l./and 20-cc the mixed gas for /was introduced for  $C_2F_4$  (tetrafluoroethylene) by making argon into 1-l. a part for /and reactive gas. By this, silica powder was supplied to the inside of the insulator pipe 3 from the processed material supply port 6, it distributed uniformly with mixed gas, the plasma reaction zone 2 which generated glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure was passed, and plasma treatment was performed continuously. Using copper foil as the electrode pair 1 constituted with band-like RF electrode 1a connected with AC power supply 11, and the band-like earth electrode 1b, discharge frequency was 13.56 MHz, the discharge output of the plasma condition was 200W, and a pressure is 1 atmosphere and carried out processing time in 10 minutes. As a result, in unsettled silica powder, as shown in drawing 5 (b), according to X linear-light electronic spectroscopic analysis (ESCA). If the peak of fluoride is not checked but it supplies to water, with the silica powder which performed plasma treatment, to sedimenting in an instant. As it does not sediment at all in water but is shown in drawing 5 (a), according to X linear-light electronic spectroscopic analysis (ESCA). Near 685 eV of binding energies and  $F_{KLL}$  were checked for  $F_{1s}$  which is a peak of fluoride near 610 eV of binding energies, and the surface of silica powder fluorinated and it checked that the coat of a fluorine system was formed.

[0029](Example 2 of use) In the example 1 of use, the copolymer of styrene with a mean particle diameter of 400 micrometers and divinylbenzene is used as the processed material 5, Discharge frequency is 90 kHz, 20-cc the mixed gas for /is introduced for  $CF_4$  (tetrafluoromethane) as rare gas by making helium into 6-l. a part for /and reactive gas, and the discharge output of a plasma condition is 200W. A pressure is 1 atmosphere and processing time performed plasma treatment like the example 1 of use except having been 5 minutes.

As a result, in the copolymer of unsettled styrene and divinylbenzene. As shown in drawing 6 (b), according to X linear-light electronic spectroscopic analysis (ESCA). If the peak of fluoride is not checked but it supplies to water, with the copolymer of styrene and divinylbenzene which performed plasma treatment, to sedimenting in an instant. As it does not sediment at all in water but is shown in drawing 6 (a), according to X linear-light electronic spectroscopic analysis (ESCA).  $F_{1s}$  which is a peak of fluoride was checked near 685 eV of binding energies, and the surface of the copolymer of styrene and divinylbenzene fluorinated and it checked that the coat of a fluorine system was formed.

[0030]

[Effect of the Invention] Since the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 1 of this invention is constituted as mentioned above, according to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 1 of this invention, supply of a particulate matter can be performed continuously, and it can distribute a particulate matter uniformly, and can perform uniform plasma treatment.

[0031] The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 2 of this invention, Since it is constituted as mentioned above, according to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 2 of

this invention, a particulate matter, It becomes possible to carry out the number-of-times recycling of necessary, and since the inside of the glow discharge plasma generated in a plasma reaction zone is repeated and it circulates and passes, the long holding time in plasma space can be taken. That is, since a plasma reaction zone can be shortened while it is effective in plasma treatment, when a long time is a required particulate matter as a result, an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit can be made compact.

[0032]The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 3 of this invention, Without suspending an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit according to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method concerning claim 3 of this invention, since it is constituted as mentioned above, the particulate matter by which plasma treatment was carried out by carrying out the number-of-times recycling of necessary can be taken out continuously, and it is efficient.

[0033]The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 4 and claim 5 of this invention, Since it is constituted as mentioned above, according to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 4 and claim 5 of this invention, supply of a particulate matter can be performed continuously, a particulate matter can be distributed uniformly, and uniform plasma treatment can be performed.

[0034]The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 6 and claim 7 of this invention, Since it is constituted as mentioned above, according to the atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit concerning claim 6 and claim 7 of this invention, a particulate matter, It becomes possible to carry out the number-of-times recycling of necessary, and since the inside of the glow discharge plasma generated in a plasma reaction zone is repeated and it circulates and passes, the long holding time in plasma space can be taken. That is, since a plasma reaction zone can be shortened while it is effective in plasma treatment, when a long time is a required particulate matter as a result, an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit can be made compact.

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas is introduced from a gas stream entrance (4a) of an end part of an insulator pipe (3) provided with a plasma reaction zone (2) which provided AC power supply (electrode pair (1 which comprises an RF electrode (1a) connected with 11), and an earth electrode (1b)) in a peripheral part, and was formed in it, The above-mentioned gas is discharged from gas exhaust (4b) which stands in a row in the other end of an insulator pipe (3), In an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method which processes a particulate matter which made a plasma reaction zone (2) generate glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure, and was supplied to a plasma reaction zone (2), From a processed material supply port (6) where it had between a plasma reaction zone (2) of the above-mentioned insulator pipe (3), and a gas stream entrance (4a), An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method supplying continuously a particulate matter which is processed material (5) into plasma of a plasma reaction zone (2) through which mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows.

[Claim 2] Use as processed material (5) intermediate treatment material (9) which is the particulate matter continuously processed in plasma of the above-mentioned plasma reaction zone (2), and it is returned to the above-mentioned processed material supply port (6), The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method according to claim 1 supplying continuously a particulate matter which is processed material (5) into plasma of a plasma reaction zone (2) through which mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas flows, and carrying out the number-of-times recycling of necessary from this processed material supply port (6).

[Claim 3] The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material disposal method according to claim 1 or 2 taking out continuously a particulate matter continuously processed in plasma of the above-mentioned plasma reaction zone (2).

[Claim 4] An atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit comprising:

Mixed gas of rare gas or rare gas, and reactive gas is introduced from a gas stream entrance (4a) of an end part of an insulator pipe (3) provided with a plasma reaction zone (2) which provided AC power supply (electrode pair (1 which comprises an RF electrode (1a) connected with 11), and an earth electrode (1b)) in a peripheral part, and was formed in it, The above-mentioned gas is discharged from gas exhaust (4b) which stands in a row in the other end of an insulator pipe (3), In an atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit which processes a particulate matter which made a plasma reaction zone (2) generate glow discharge plasma under atmospheric pressure, and was supplied to a plasma reaction zone (2), A processed material supply port (6) which supplies a particulate matter which is processed material (5) between a plasma reaction zone (2) of the above-mentioned insulator pipe (3), and a gas stream entrance (4a).

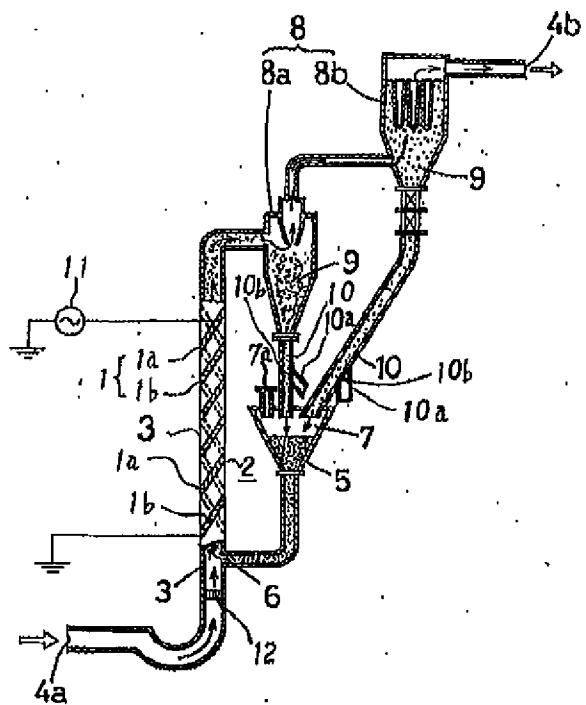
A processed material storing zone (7) which stands in a row in this processed material supply port (6).

[Claim 5] The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit according to claim 4, wherein a cross-section area of the above-mentioned processed material supply port (6) is smaller than a cross-section area of an insulator pipe (3) cut to a processed material supply port (6) in a vertical virtual surface in a position in which this processed material supply port (6) was allocated.

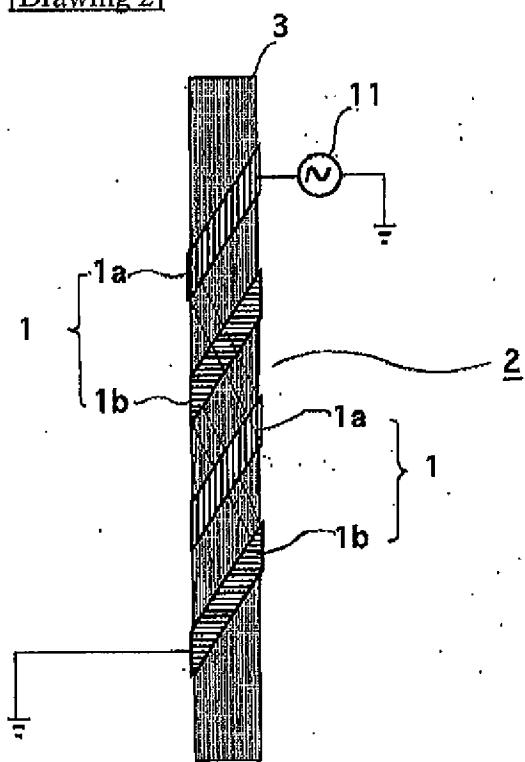
[Claim 6]The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit comprising according to claim 4 or 5:

It is a collector (8) between an end of an insulator pipe (3) and the above-mentioned gas exhaust (4b) in an opposite hand of the above-mentioned gas stream entrance (4a). A recycling pipe (10) which returns a particulate matter which is the intermediate treatment material (9) caught by this collector (8), and by which plasma treatment was carried out to a processed material storing zone (7).

[Claim 7]The atmospheric pressure plasma granular material processing unit according to claim 6, wherein the above-mentioned collectors (8) are a cyclone (8a) and/or a bag filter (8b).

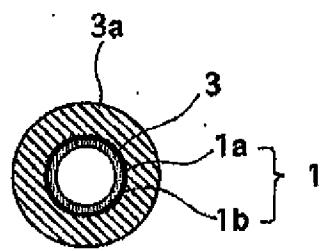


[Drawing 2]

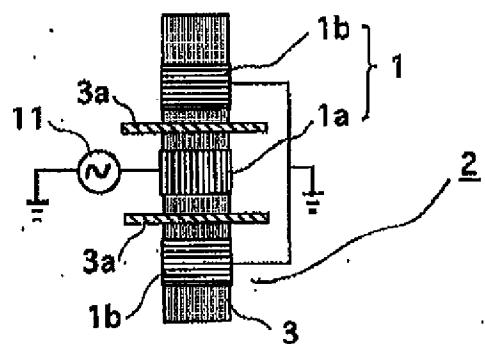


[Drawing 4]

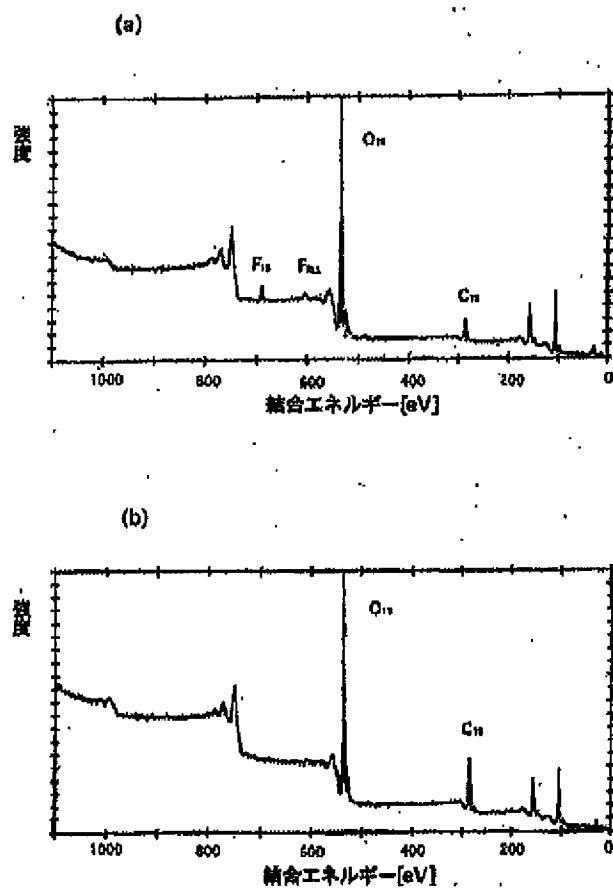
(a)



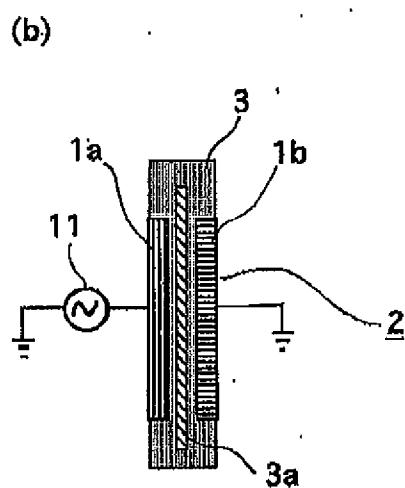
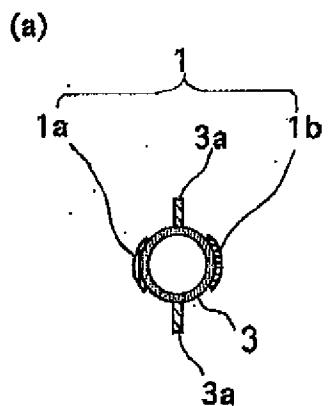
(b)



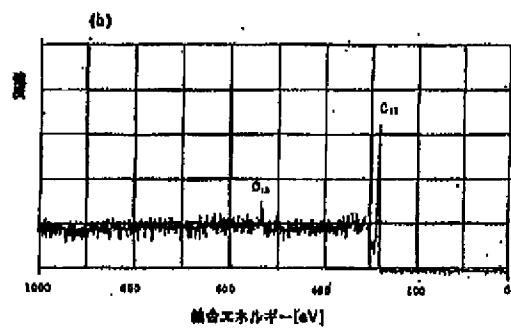
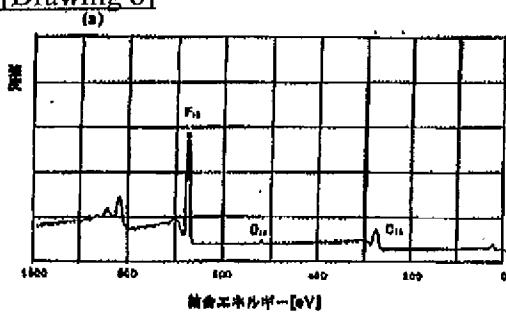
[Drawing 5]



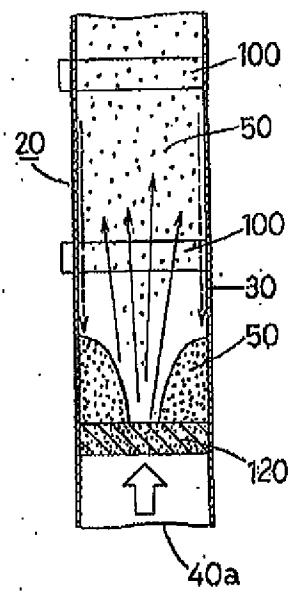
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 6]



[Drawing 7]



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FIG

技術表示範例

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 7 OL (全 8 頁)

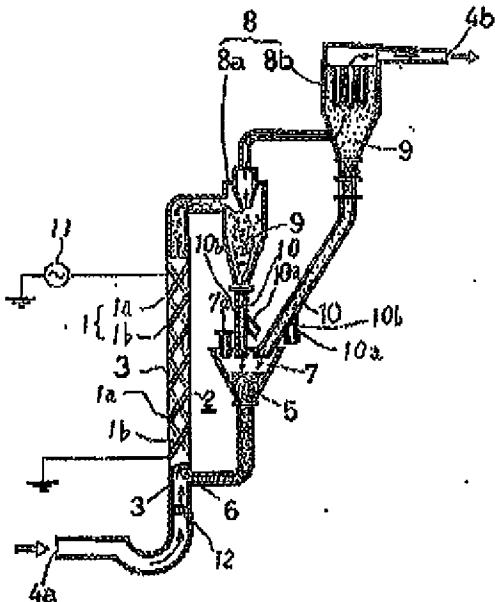
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(64) 【発明の名称】 大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法及びその装置

(57) { 索約 }

【目的】 プラズマ処理により粉粒体の表面を改質し、粉粒体全体として改質が均一である大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法及びその装置を提供する。

【構成】 外周部に交流電源11と接続される高周波電極1aと接地電極1bとから成る電極対1を設けて形成されたプラズマ反応ゾーン2を備えた絶縁体管3の一端部のガス入口4aから希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管3の他端部に達するガス排出口4bから上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2にてグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン2に供給された粉粒体を処理する。この場合、上記絶縁体管3のプラズマ反応ゾーン2とガス入口4aとの間に備えられた被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連續的に被処理材片である粉粒体を供給する。



(2) 特開平7-328427

1

## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 外周部に交流電源(11)と接続される高周波電極(1a)と接地電極(1b)とから成る電極対(1)を設けて形成されたプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)を備えた絶縁体管(3)の一端部のガス流入口(4a)から希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管(3)の他端部に連なるガス排出口(4b)から上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)にグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン(2)に供給された粉粒体を処理する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法において、上記絶縁体管(3)のプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)とガス流入口(4a)との間に備えられた被処理材料供給口(6)から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料(5)である粉粒体を供給することを特徴とする大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法。

【請求項2】 上記プラズマ反応ゾーン(2)のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体である中間処理材料(9)を被処理材料(5)として上記被処理材料供給口(6)に戻し、この被処理材料供給口(6)から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料(5)である粉粒体を供給して所要回数リサイクルすることを特徴とする請求項1記載の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法。

【請求項3】 上記プラズマ反応ゾーン(2)のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体を連続的に取り出すことを特徴とする請求項1又は請求項2記載の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法。

【請求項4】 外周部に交流電源(11)と接続される高周波電極(1a)と接地電極(1b)とから成る電極対(1)を設けて形成されたプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)を備えた絶縁体管(3)の一端部のガス流入口(4a)から希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管(3)の他端部に連なるガス排出口(4b)から上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)にグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン(2)に供給された粉粒体を処理する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置において、上記絶縁体管(3)のプラズマ反応ゾーン(2)とガス流入口(4a)との間に被処理材料(5)である粉粒体を供給する被処理材料供給口(6)を備え、この被処理材料供給口(6)に連なる被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン(7)を備えたことを特徴とする大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置。

【請求項5】 上記被処理材料供給口(6)の断面積が、この被処理材料供給口(6)が阻設された位置で被処理材料供給口(6)に対し直角な假想面で切断された絶縁体管(3)の断面積より小さいことを特徴とする請求項4記載の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置。

2

【請求項6】 上記ガス流入口(4a)の反対側にある絶縁体管(3)の端部と上記ガス排出口(4b)との間に捕集機(8)を備え、この捕集機(8)で捕集された中間処理材料(9)であるプラズマ処理された粉粒体を被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン(7)に戻すリサイクル管(10)を備えたことを特徴とする請求項4又は請求項5記載の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置。

【請求項7】 上記捕集機(8)がサイクロン(8a)及び/又はバグフィルタ(8b)であることを特徴とする請求項6記載の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

## 【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】 本発明は、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法及びその装置に關し、詳しく述べては、大気圧下で絶縁体管の内部に発生したグロー放電プラズマ及び、絶縁体管の内部の粉粒体の表面を改質処理する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法及びその装置に関する。

## 【0002】

【従来の技術】 従来、複合材のフィラー、塗料の顔料又は触媒等に使用される粉体の表面を改質したり、所要の物質を付着させたりするには、プラズマ粉体処理装置を用いたプラズマ粉体処理方法が行われている。ところが、図7に示すように、電極対100を設けて形成されたプラズマ反応ゾーン20を備えた絶縁体管30の一端部のガス流入口40aから希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、フィルター120を介して絶縁体管30内に充填した粉体50を浮遊させるプラズマ粉体処理装置を用いたプラズマ粉体処理方法の場合には、粉体50が局部的に浮遊され、内壁周辺にある粉体50の一部が浮遊されずに堆積した状態になり、いわゆる吹き抜け現象が発生し、この堆積した粉体50についでは、粉体50の表面の改質が行わないとため、粉体50全体として改質が不均一になるという欠点があった。

## 【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 本発明は上記の事実に鑑みてなされたもので、その目的とするところは、プラズマ処理により粉粒体の表面を改質し、粉粒体全体として改質が均一である大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法及びその装置を提供することにある。

## 【0004】

【課題を解決するための手段】 本発明の請求項1に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法は、外周部に交流電源11と接続される高周波電極1aと接地電極1bとから成る電極対(1)を設けて形成されたプラズマ反応ゾーン2を備えた絶縁体管3の一端部のガス流入口4aから希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管3の他端部に連なるガス排出口4bから上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でグロー放電ゾーン2にグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン2に供給された粉粒体を処理する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法において、

(3)

特開平7-328427

4

て、上記絶縁体管3のプラズマ反応ゾーン2とガス流入口4aとの間に備えられた被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給することを特徴とする。

【0005】本発明の請求項2に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法は、上記プラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体である中間処理材料9を被処理材料5として上記被処理材料供給口6に戻し、この被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給して所要回数リサイクルすることを特徴とする。

【0006】本発明の請求項3に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法は、上記プラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体を連続的に取り出すことを特徴とする。

【0007】本発明の請求項4に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置は、外周部に交流電源11と接続される高周波電源1aと接地電極1bとから成る電極対1を駆けて形成されたプラズマ反応ゾーン2を備えた絶縁体管3の一端部のガス流入口4aから希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管3の他端部に連なるガス排出口4bから上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2にグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン2に供給された粉粒体を処理する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置において、上記絶縁体管3のプラズマ反応ゾーン2とガス流入口4aとの間に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給する被処理材料供給口6を備え、この被処理材料供給口6に連なる被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7を備えたことを特徴とする。

【0008】本発明の請求項5に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置は、上記被処理材料供給口6の断面積が、この被処理材料供給口6が配設された位置で被処理材料供給口6に対して垂直な仮想面で切断された絶縁体管3の断面積より小さいことを特徴とする。

【0009】本発明の請求項6に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置は、上記ガス流入口4aの反対側にある絶縁体管3の端部と上記ガス排出口4bとの間に捕集機8を備え、この捕集機8で捕集された中間処理材料9であるプラズマ処理された粉粒体を被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7に戻すリサイクル管10を備えたことを特徴とする。

【0010】本発明の請求項7に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置は、上記捕集機8がサイクロン8a及び/又はバッグフィルタ8bであることを特徴とする。

【0011】

【作用】本発明の請求項1に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法では、図1に示すように、絶縁体管3のプラズマ反応ゾーン2とガス流入口4aとの間に備えられた被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスと

の混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給することにより、被処理材料5である粉粒体が上記ガスとともに均一に分散されて、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2のグロー放電プラズマ中に上昇しながらプラズマ反応ゾーン2を通過し、連続的にプラズマ処理が施される。

【0012】本発明の請求項2に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法では、プラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体である中間処理材料9を被処理材料5として上記被処理材料供給口6に戻し、この被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給して所要回数リサイクルするため、被処理材料5である粉粒体がグロー放電プラズマを発生させるプラズマ反応ゾーン2を繰り返し循環して通過するので、プラズマ空間での滞留時間を長くとることができる。

【0013】本発明の請求項3に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法では、プラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体を連続的に取り出すことができるので、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を停止することなく、所要回数リサイクルしてプラズマ処理された粉粒体を連続的に取り出すことができ、効率的である。

【0014】本発明の請求項4に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置では、絶縁体管3のプラズマ反応ゾーン2とガス流入口4aとの間に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給する被処理材料供給口6を備え、この被処理材料供給口6に連なる被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7を備えているので、ガス流入口4aから希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入することにより、被処理材料5である粉粒体が上記ガスとともに均一に分散されて、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2のグロー放電プラズマ中に上昇しながらプラズマ反応ゾーン2を通過し、連続的にプラズマ処理が施される。

【0015】本発明の請求項5に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置では、被処理材料供給口6の断面積が、この被処理材料供給口6が配設された位置で被処理材料供給口6に対して垂直な仮想面で切断された絶縁体管3の断面積より小さいため、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7に分流せず、プラズマ反応ゾーン2に流れ、その結果、被処理材料5である粉粒体の供給が連続的に行われる。

【0016】本発明の請求項6及び請求項7に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置では、ガス流入口4aの反対側にある絶縁体管3の端部と上記ガス排出口4bとの間にサイクロン8a及び/又はバッグフィルタ8b等の捕集機8を備え、この捕集機8で捕集された中間処理材料9を被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7に戻すリサイクル管10を備えているため、被処理材料5である粉粒体がグロー放電プラズマを発生させるプラズマ反応ゾーン2を繰り返し

(4)

特開平7-328427

5

循環して通過するので、プラズマ空間での滞留時間を長くとることができる。

【0017】

【実施例】以下本発明を実施例に供する図面に基づいて説明する。

【0018】図1は本発明に供する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法に用いる装置の一実施例の概略図である。

【0019】本発明に供する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法に用いる装置は、図1に示すように、電気絶縁性を有する絶縁体管3の一端部のガス流入口4aから希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管3の他端部に達なるガス排出出口4bから上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2にグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン2に供給された粉粒体を処理するものである。この絶縁体管3は、例えば、ガラス、プラスチック又はセラミックス等が用いられるが、絶縁体であればよく特に限定されない。この絶縁体管3は、外周部に交流電源11と接続される高周波電極1aとから成る電極対1を備え、接地電極1bと、交流電源11と接続される高周波電極1aとが間隔を保てて交互に配設されている。この電極対1の高周波電極1aと接地電極1bとの各間隔の略中央に平面鏡が絶縁体管3と同心円の円板状の絶縁板3aが絶縁体管3の外周に突設して備えられている。このように、本発明に供する大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法に用いるプラズマ反応ゾーン2として、図2乃至図4で示したプラズマ反応ゾーン2のいずれを用いてもよい。

【0020】また、上記交流電源11は、数十Hzの低周波から13.56MHzの高周波まで使用することができるが、特に限定されない。なお、上記絶縁体管3の一端部のガス流入口4aから導入するガスとしては、ヘリウム若しくはアルゴン等の希ガス又は窒素が反応に寄与しない場合には、必要に応じて窒素等の反応性の低い不活性ガスを使用することができる。反応性ガスとしては、例えば、酸素、窒素、アンモニア若しくは二酸化炭素等の無機系ガス、C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>、C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>8</sub>若しくはCF<sub>4</sub>等のフッ素を含む有機モノマーガス、テトラエトキシシラン(TEOS)若しくはヘキサメチルジシロキサン等のケイ素を含む有機モノマーガス又はケトン、アルコール、エーテル、ジメチルホルムアミド(DMF)、アルデヒド、アミン類若しくはカルボン酸等の有機モノマーの蒸気等を使用することができる。ここで、有機モノマーが液状の場合には、希ガス等をこの有機モノマーの液体中にパブリングして有機モノマーを気化させて、絶縁体管3の一端部のガス流入口4aから導入することも大気圧であるため極めて容易である。これらの希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスを導入し、絶縁体管3の他端部に達なるガス排出出口4bから上記ガスを排出し、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2にグロー放電プラズマを発生させて、プラズマ反応ゾーン2に供給された粉粒体を処理する。この被処理材料5である粉粒体は、例えば、樹脂、ガラス、セラミックス、金属又は木材等が使用でき、粒径又は形状等も特に限定されるものではなく、その特性に応じて絶縁体管3の形状又はガス流速等の条件は、適宜設定される。

【0021】上記絶縁体管3のプラズマ反応ゾーン2とガス流入口4aとの間に被処理材料6を供給する被処理材料供給口6が備えられ、この被処理材料供給口6に連なって被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7が備えられている。この被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7に備えられている粉粒体流入口7aから被処理材料5である粉粒体を投入することにより、被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応

6

(5)

特願平7-328427

7

性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料5である粉粒体が供給される。この粉粒体は、ガスとともに均一に分散されて、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2で発生するグロー放電プラズマ中を通過し、連続的にプラズマ処理が施される。

【0022】上記被処理材料供給口6の断面積が、この被処理材料供給口6が配設された位置で被処理材料供給口6に対して垂直な仮想面で切断された絶縁体管3の断面積より小さいことが望ましく、より好ましくは、10～60%がよい。すなわち、被処理材料供給口6の断面積が、この被処理材料供給口6が配設された位置で被処理材料供給口6に対して垂直な仮想面で切断された絶縁体管3の断面積の50%を超える場合には、被処理材料供給ゾーン7にガス流入口4aから希ガス又は粉ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが分離し易くなり、10%未満の場合には、被処理材料5である粉粒体が被処理材料供給口6の付近で詰まり易くなり、絶縁体管3の内部への供給が困難になる傾向が出てくる。なお、被処理材料供給口6の下方で絶縁体管3の内部に粉粒体を通過させず、ガスのみを通過させる、例えば、ガラス焼結フィルター等の多孔質板12等を設置してもよい。

【0023】また、上記ガス流入口4aの反対側にある絶縁体管3の端部と上記ガス排出口4bとの間にサイクロン8a及び/又はバッグフィルタ8b等の捕集機8を備えることが望ましい。すなわち、このサイクロン8a及び/又はバッグフィルタ8b等の捕集機8でガスと粉粒体とが分離され、ガスは、ガス排出口4bから排出される。一方、捕集されたプラズマ処理済の粉粒体を捕集機8の下部で連続的に取り出してもよい。

【0024】また、この捕集機8で捕集されたプラズマ処理済の粉粒体を中間処理材料9として捕集機8の下部に達するリサイクル配管等のリサイクル管10で被処理材料供給ゾーン7に戻すことができる。このため、上記中間処理材料9は、被処理材料5として上記被処理材料供給口6に戻され、この被処理材料供給口6から、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に供給される。すなわち、粉粒体は、所要回数リサイクルする事が可能になり、プラズマ反応ゾーン2で発生するグロー放電プラズマ中を繰り返し循環して通過するので、プラズマ空間での滞留時間を長くとることができる。すなわち、プラズマ処理に長時間が必要な粉粒体の場合に有効であるとともに、プラズマ反応ゾーン2を短くできるため、その結果、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置をコンパクトにすることができる。

【0025】また、上記プラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に処理された粉粒体を例えば、リサイクル管10に備えられた処理材料供給口10aから連続的に取り出すことができる。すなわち、粉粒体を取り出す場

8

合には、処理材料供給口10aに備えられた弁10bにより被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7への経路を遮断して処理材料供給口10aの経路を開けることにより、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を停止することなく、プラズマ中で連続的に処理された粉粒体を処理材料供給口10aから連続的に取り出すことができる。

【0026】以上により、本発明の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法及びその装置によると、希ガス又は希ガスと反応性ガスとの混合ガスが流れるプラズマ反応ゾーン2のプラズマ中に連続的に被処理材料5である粉粒体を供給することにより、被処理材料5である粉粒体が上記ガスとともに均一に分散されて、大気圧下でプラズマ反応ゾーン2のグロー放電プラズマ中を上昇しながらプラズマ反応ゾーン2を通過し、連続的にプラズマ処理が施される。すなわち、プラズマ処理により粉粒体の表面の活性化又は粉粒体の表面での反応若しくは被膜形成等が行われて粉粒体の表面が改質され、粉粒体全体として改質が均一になる。

【0027】以下に本発明の大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を用いてプラズマ処理により粉粒体の表面を改質する一例を挙げる。

【0028】(使用例1) 本発明に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置により、シリカ粉末のプラズマ処理を行った。図1に示した被処理材料貯蔵ゾーン7に備えられている粉粒体投入口7aから被処理材料5である平均粒径100μmのシリカ粉末(トクシールUR:徳山電連株式会社製)を投入した。次に、ガス流入口4aから希ガスとしてヘリウムを3リットル/分、アルゴンを1リットル/分及び反応性ガスとしてC<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>、(テトラフルオロエチレン)を20cc/分の混合ガスを導入した。これにより、シリカ粉末を被処理材料供給口6から絶縁体管3の内部に供給し、混合ガスとともに均一に分散して、大気圧下でグロー放電プラズマを発生させたプラズマ反応ゾーン2を通過させ、連続的にプラズマ処理を施した。なお、交流電源11と接続される帯状の高周波電極1aと、帯状の接地電極1bとにより構成される電極対1としては、網目を用い、プラズマ条件は、放電周波数が13.56MHz、放電出力が200Wであり、圧力は1気圧で、処理時間を10分にした。この結果、未処理のシリカ粉末では、図5(b)に示すように、X線光電子分光分析(ESCA)によると、フッ素のピークが確認されず、水に投入すると、瞬時に沈降するのに対して、プラズマ処理を施したシリカ粉末では、水に全く沈降せず、図5(a)に示すように、X線光電子分光分析(ESCA)によると、フッ素のピークであるF<sub>1s</sub>が結合エネルギー8.85eV付近に及CF<sub>3</sub>が結合エネルギー6.10eV付近に確認され、シリカ粉末の表面がフッ素化し、フッ素系の皮膜が形成されていることを確認した。

【0029】(使用例2) 使用例1において、被処理材

(6)

特開平7-328427

9

料として、平均粒径40.0  $\mu$ mのステレンとジビニルベンゼンの共重合体を用い、希ガスとしてヘリウムを0リットル/分及び反応性ガスとしてCF<sub>3</sub>（アトラフルオロメタン）を20cc/分の混合ガスを導入し、プラズマ条件は、放電周波数が90kHz、放電出力が200Wであり、圧力は1気圧で、処理時間は5分であった以外は、使用例1と同様にしてプラズマ処理を行った。この結果、未処理のステレンとジビニルベンゼンの共重合体では、図6（り）に示すように、X線光電子分光分析（ESCA）によると、フッ素のピークが確認されず、水に投入すると、瞬時に沈降するのにに対して、プラズマ処理を施したステレンとジビニルベンゼンの共重合体では、水に全く沈降せず、図6（a）に示すように、X線光電子分光分析（ESCA）によると、フッ素のピークであるF<sub>1s</sub>が結合エネルギー886eV付近に確認され、ステレンとジビニルベンゼンの共重合体の表面がフッ素化し、フッ素系の皮膜が形成されていることを確認した。

## 【0030】

【発明の効果】本発明の請求項1に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法は、上記のように構成されているので、本発明の請求項1に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法によると、粉粒体の供給が連続的に行われ、粉粒体を均一に分散することができ、均一なプラズマ処理を施すことができる。

【0031】本発明の請求項2に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法は、上記のように構成されているので、本発明の請求項2に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法によると、粉粒体は、所要回数リサイクルすることができる。プラズマ反応ゾーンで発生するグロー放電プラズマ中を繰り返し循環して通過するので、プラズマ空間での滞留時間を長くとることができる。すなわち、プラズマ処理に必要な粉粒体の場合に有効であるとともに、プラズマ反応ゾーンを短くできるため、その結果、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置をコンパクトにすることができる。

【0032】本発明の請求項3に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法は、上記のように構成されているので、本発明の請求項3に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理方法によると、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を停止することなく、所要回数リサイクルしてプラズマ処理された粉粒体を連続的に取り出すことができ、効率的である。

【0033】本発明の請求項4及び請求項5に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置は、上記のように構成されているので、本発明の請求項4及び請求項5に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置によると、粉粒体の供給が連続的に行われ、粉粒体を均一に分散することができ、均一なプラズマ処理を施すことができる。

【0034】本発明の請求項6及び請求項7に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置は、上記のように構成されてい

10

るので、本発明の請求項6及び請求項7に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置によると、粉粒体は、所要回数リサイクルすることができるになり、プラズマ反応ゾーンで発生するグロー放電プラズマ中を繰り返し循環して通過するので、プラズマ空間での滞留時間を長くとができる。すなわち、プラズマ処理に長時間が必要な粉粒体の場合に有効であるとともに、プラズマ反応ゾーンを短くできるため、その結果、大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置をコンパクトにすることができる。

## 10 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施例に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置の概略図である。

【図2】本発明の実施例に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を構成するプラズマ反応ゾーンの説明図である。

【図3】本発明の実施例に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を構成する他のプラズマ反応ゾーンの説明図であり、（a）が平面図で、（b）が立面図である。

【図4】本発明の実施例に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を構成する他のプラズマ反応ゾーンの説明図であり、（a）が平面図で、（b）が立面図である。

【図5】本発明の使用例1に係るX線光電子分光分析（ESCA）のグラフであり、（a）は大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を用いてプラズマ処理をした粉粒体を測定したグラフであり、（b）は、未処理粉粒体を測定したグラフである。

【図6】本発明の使用例2に係るX線光電子分光分析（ESCA）のグラフであり、（a）は大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置を用いてプラズマ処理をした粉粒体を測定したグラフであり、（b）は、未処理粉粒体を測定したグラフである。

【図7】従来例に係る大気圧プラズマ粉体処理装置の要部断面図である。

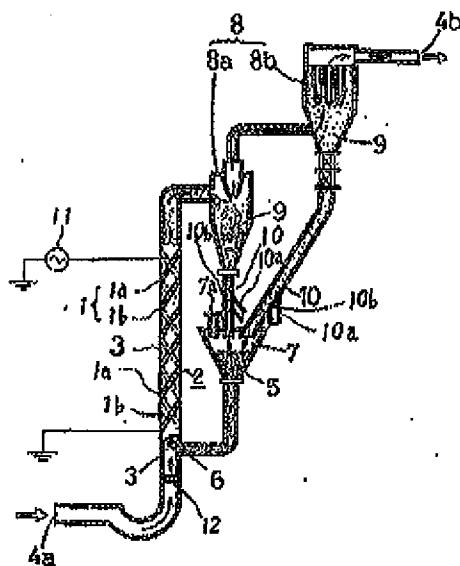
## 【符号の説明】

1	電極対
1 a	高周放電橋
1 b	接地端子
2	プラズマ反応ゾーン
3	絶縁体管
4 a	ガス流入口
4 b	ガス排出口
5	被処理材料
6	被処理材料供給口
7	被処理材料滞留ゾーン
8	捕集器
8 a	サイクロン
8 b	バッグフィルタ
9	中間処理材料
10	リサイクル管
11	交流電源

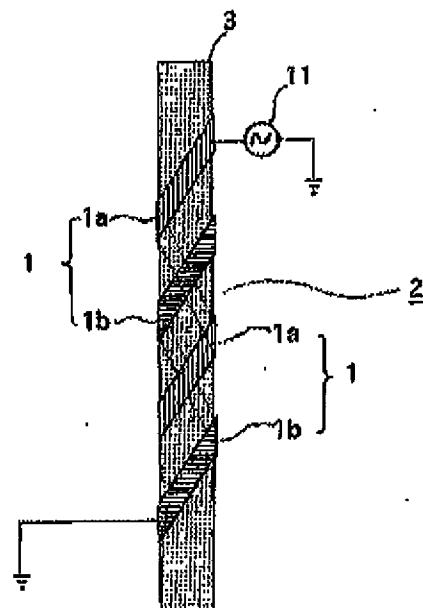
(7)

特開平7-328427

[図1]

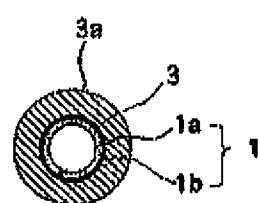


[図2]



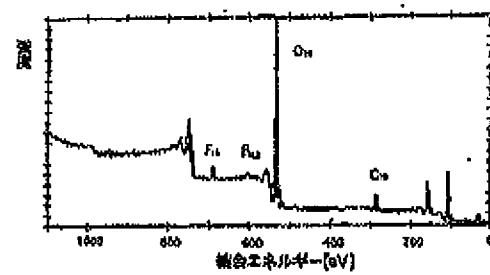
[図4]

(a)

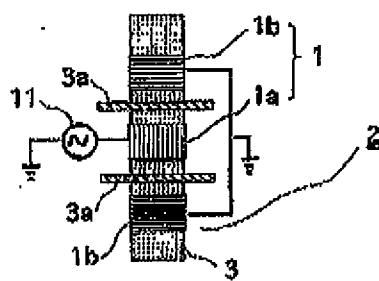


[図5]

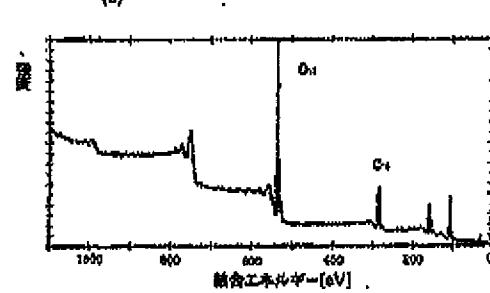
(a)



(b)



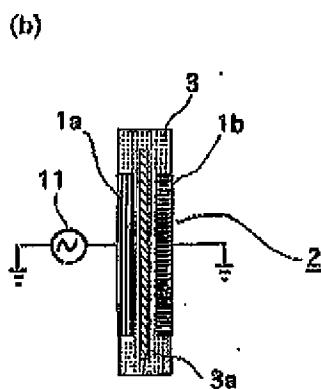
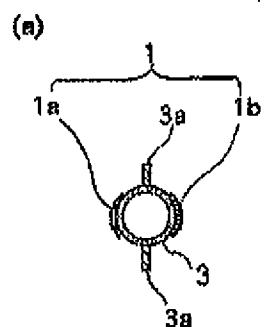
(b)



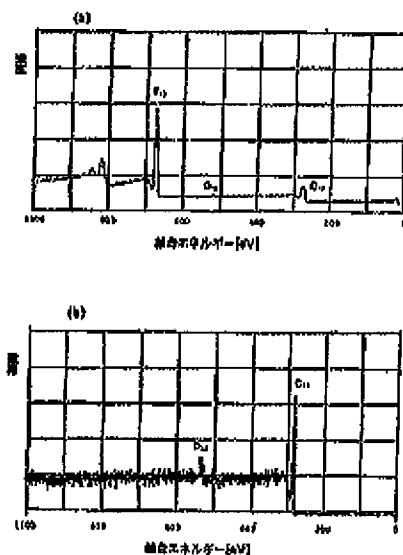
(8)

特開平7-328427

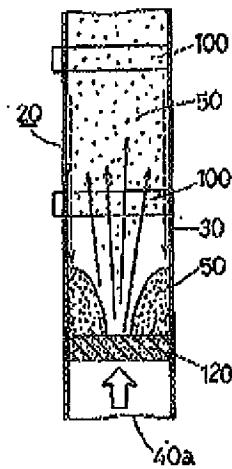
【図3】



【図6】



【図7】



フロントページの続き

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